

Senate Unit Approves McCone Nomination

By the Associated Press

The Senate Armed Services Committee today formally approved the nomination of John A. McCone to head the Central Intelligence Agency.

Chairman Russell, Democrat of Georgia, announced that the committee in a closed meeting also approved the nominations of:

Fred Korth, Fort Worth, Tex., to be Secretary of the Navy.

Neil E. Harlan, a Harvard professor, to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for financial management.

Senator Russell told newsmen there were no votes against reporting any of the three nominations to the Senate, but that at least one Senator had gone along as to Mr. McCone "with reservations," meaning the Senator reserved a right to oppose confirmation in the Senate if he wished. He did not name the Senator.

Senator Russell says he expects no "substantial opposition" to Mr. McCone in the Senate.

Recess Appointments

Mr. McCone, Mr. Korth and Mr. Harlan already are on the jobs under recess appointments from President Kennedy announced before Congress reconvened.

The committee's approval of Mr. McCone follows public hearings last week at which Senator McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, raised critical questions about the CIA's powers and whether Mr. McCone is the right man to head the super-secret intelligence agency.

Replying to criticisms of the CIA and at his qualifications to head it, Mr. McCone reiterated he does not feel the CIA director is in a policy-making position. And he promised to keep four congressional subcommittees informed about operations of the agency. What CIA does, how it does it, how many employees it has and what it spends never have been publicly disclosed.

Mr. McCone's public discussion of the CIA and his plans for it went in a letter to Senator Russell.

Mr. McCone, 60-year-old millionaire industrialist and shipping line executive, succeeded Allen W. Dulles as CIA director last November.

As presently operating, Mr. McCone said, the CIA "is not a bad pattern of organization" but added "some changes will be indicated."

Senator McCarthy questioned both the legality and authority for some recent actions credited to the CIA. He said the secret agency was reported to have helped oust the Premier of Iran in 1953, overthrow the President of Guatemala in 1954, and aided the ill-fated Cuban invasion.

McCone's Answer

In reply, Mr. McCone wrote: "Many events have been attributed to the Central Intelligence Agency over the years, and it would be impossible for me to have the facts on these matters, but I certainly do not accept because they are attributed to the Central Intelligence Agency that the agency is responsible for them."

Mr. McCone promised "to carry out to the best of my ability all duties assigned, and I must assume that no such assignment would cause me to violate my oath of office to support and defend the Constitution."

To Senator McCarthy's question as to the authority and ethics of some CIA activities, Mr. McCone replied:

"The very nature of the question is such that I cannot respond to it, particularly in the light of responsibility imposed upon me by law to assure the protection of intelligence sources and methods from unauthorized disclosure."

Mr. McCone served as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission from 1958 to 1961 and Senator McCarthy asked about "leaks" of information in the disputes over nuclear testing.

McCone Defends AEC

Flatly denying that he or anyone in AEC leaked this or other classified information, Mr. McCone said: "There were leaks in this area, but there were none that were attributed to the Atomic Energy Commission."

He denied also Senator McCarthy's implication that Mr. McCone, as a trustee of the California Institute of Technology, had attempted to have fired 10 professors who publicly differed with him on atomic issues.

Mr. McCone said Senate and House subcommittees of both the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees dealt with CIA. This was his answer to complaints by Senator McCarthy and others that Congress has little check or supervision of the agency.

"The Central Intelligence Agency has been at all times responsive to the calls of these subcommittees and in addition has brought to their attention matters the agency felt should properly be considered by them," he said, adding:

"I will continue this policy and this relationship with these subcommittees."

He noted also that CIA "reports to the National Security Council and is subject to direction by the National Security Council."